

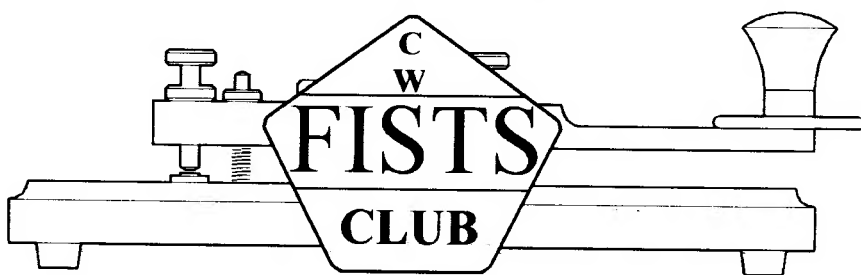
Issue 3 2006

The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club

The active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society

“Accuracy Transcends Speed”



Our Goals:

Further the use of Morse code

Engender friendships among members

Encourage newcomers to use Morse code

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend”

A FISTS FRIEND

What is FISTS?

An invitation to all,

Just lots of fun and a QSO.

It is the sound of a key in skillful hands.

The sound of friends wherever they are.

It is not the speed and the combination of things.

But a kind word, clear sent code, that paves the way

To FISTS and a long-lasting friend.

As the shack lights up with meters, light and dials.

So can the life of a FISTS friend.

So if some FISTS are on, give them a call

And enter the world of FISTS, CW and friends.

AB7VS
Charles Thornock

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

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Hello FISTS!

This has been a very busy Spring - I guess this is always a busy time of year. Hamfest season is starting, we are getting ready for Hamvention and Field Day, planning for FISTS Anniversary in September, and of course, the Spring Sprint is in May. I sent out about 700 renewal post-cards and am astonished (and thrilled) at the response rate. Box 47 has been overflowing almost every day. Thank you to all who renewed. Please check your label and make sure I credited your renewal to you. *If you **recently** sent in your renewal, keep in mind that about three weeks have elapsed since the time the labels were printed and the time you are reading this, so it is probable that they crossed in the mail (or ozone, if you used Paypal).*

Hamvention is the big news on the forefront. Chuck Adams, K7QO, guru of the Code Course which has helped so many of you, has a new version which will be introduced in Dayton. Chuck has generously donated this to FISTS and we will be distributing it at Hamvention and anywhere else we can. Thank you Chuck!

Since the licensing structure has been changed, there have been many requests for a proficiency program that will give you bragging rights and verify that you are a KNOW CODE Ham (do you have your KNOW CODE t-shirt/sweatshirt yet?) So, Chuck and I got together and worked out a program we will be piloting at Dayton: The FISTS Proficiency Party. It will be held Friday night, in conjunction with the ARCI-QRP Club sponsored Vendor Night at the Holiday Inn/

Fairborn I-675. We hope to see you there! We will have proficiency runs starting at 5 WPM so do not be intimidated. This is for FUN; not for being snobby. Everyone is welcome.

We try to do something special each year for FISTS Anniversary. The DX FISTS host Straight Key Week the first week of September, and starting last year have invited the US contingent to join in the fun. To help wind up Straight Key Week with a bang, we are going to have a Straight Key contest at the end of StKey Week - September 9-10. I have dubbed it FASTKey (FISTS Anniversary Straight Key) Contest, but do not want to confuse anyone - everyone is welcome regardless of speed. Details will be on the web page and also in the Keynote, magazines, contest reflectors, etc. A computer logging program is being written to help you keep track of your contest contacts. It should be a lot of fun, so stay tuned!

We want to keep KNOWCW activated every day in September, so please take a look at the schedule on our web page (<http://www.fists.org>) and contact Karl KB1DSB about reserving your operating time. Of course, we want KNOWCW on the air all the time, so please give it a whirl.

We need helpers for the Proficiency Party as well as helpers at the FISTS Booth. Please contact me if you can help. (nancy@tir.com) See you in Dayton! 73 88Nancy

Welcome to the New FISTS

FISTS # Call sign Name State Sponsor

12202	K4HHA	Ray	TN	K4BEH
12203	W6JNU	Al	CA	KE6OIO
12204	NR9T	Rockne	IL	
12205	K4JYB	John	FL	
12206	N1GIZ	Louis	MA	
12207	KD7QXO	Rod	NV	ND4U
12208	KB0MYP	Ron	IA	W7PFZ
12209	W6PX	Pete	CA	
12210	KA6WXR	Tom	MN	W0UAK
12211	WA5PQX	Gloria	OK	VA3UU
12212	VE6HF	Jeff	AB	
12213	WA7OET	Will	WA	
12214	KI4JIH	Tom	NC	
12215	N7OJ	Bruce	WA	
12216	AI4GF	Dave	FL	
12217	WF2U	Meir	SC	
12218	W7AAR	Bart	ID	
12219	WA3ZDI	Craig	PA	W2IX
12220	N2NH	John	NY	
12221	KD5VGJ	Jay	TX	
12222	KI4NUZ	Ron	FL	
12223	AJ2F	John	NY	
12224	KE5DOQ	Ken	TX	KA8OFP
12226	K8SLY	Larry	WA	
12227	KN8KAZ	Franklin	TX	
12228	KE4AK	George	GA	KE4I
12229	VE3LJG	Lloyd	ON	
12230	KD5VJC	Gary	OK	KD5RSS
12231	KI4LWY	Ron	VA	N4ROA
12232	K0HLA	Avery	MN	
12233	KE7GNI	Jennifer	ID	
12234	N6OYW	Archie	CA	
12235	KB3MXP	Dan	PA	WB2FXK
12236	K5WQG	Eddy	TX	
12237	WF5W	Cal	TX	KI4DEF
12238	W6TN	Trung	CA	
12239	K4BQZ	Leonard	KY	AI4BX
12240	KA1SM	Dick	FL	
12241	AC7YM	Gordon	AZ	K5JYD
12242	W2JLW	Lenny	NJ	
12243	KC9JBU	Edward	IL	
12244	AD7GR	Ed	OR	
12245	KC9HEM	Tom	IN	
12246	KC9HGP	Doug	IL	
12247	VE3VAI	Lori	ON	
12248	KB7DY	Dennis	WA	W7GVE
12249	KB1GWP	Joe	CT	

FISTS # Call sign Name State Sponsor

12251	KD5FEP	Larry	TX	
12252	W5VK	Steve	KS	
12253	KY0N	Roger	KY	
12254	KD4RA	Jerry	TN	
12255	WA4APS	James	TX	WA2FXK
12256	KD6ZDN	Bob	CA	W7RVR
12257	KD2MB	Marvin	NJ	
12258	KB2EPI	Carlos	DE	
12259	KF2JK	Bill	NY	
12260	W5EGS	Roger	TX	
12261	KG6FFJ	Jim	CA	
12262	KR4X	Larry	FL	
12263	K7UPA	Dan	OR	
12264	WA0ACF	Jerry	WI	
12265	WK0R	Dave	MO	
12266	N8GND	Ken	MI	
12267	AC7XR	Mark	UT	
12268	KD7UUB	Mike	UT	AC7XR
12269	KE7ERT	Randon	OR	
12270	W1TS	Willard	CT	K1MBX
12271	K4LTY	John	VA	KB8JFC
12272	W6FWX	Kim	CA	
12273	K8KUZ	Fred	MI	
12274	N5OL	Larry	OK	N9BOR7
12276	AB0HJ	Mark	CO	
12277	WB1CCF	Chas	CT	
12278	W9CSL	Terry	IN	

SILENT KEYS

W2BVK, 2495, Ed Chapman became a Silent Key on December 28, 2005

George Chandler, 1445, N1DNM, became a Silent Key March 1, 2006. His son wrote that Ham Radio was important to him up to the time of his death.

Art Hixon, W7DER, 2023, passed away March 26, 2006. He would have been 94 years old on May 14. He was a long time local Ham, a great guy and a morning coffee buddy. - Ed, N7CFA

In Issue 1, Stan, 3307, W4GF was mistakenly listed under his old call W4VZB. That call has since been reissued as a vanity to a no-coder and Stan wants to be sure he is no longer associated with that callsign.

- Column # 74 -

Some random thoughts about QRP, CW, the Internet and other things

Let's start off talking about DX. You remember DX, don't you? That was what we spent a good deal of time working a few short years ago with our QRP rigs when the spotted Sun was heating up the ionosphere and causing great propagation conditions

Well, the DX is still there for the QRPer - it has just moved around a bit. Instead of working stations easily on 10M with as little as a few milliwatts of power, now the attention has shifted lower in frequency to 20M and below. These are especially good times for 80, 40 and 30 meter DX as well as 20M. The lowered ionospheric absorption during sunspot minimum years allows our QRP signals to travel more unhindered on their way to distant places on those bands.

I won't go into technical details about propagation. I'll just say if you're interested in DX, try those lower bands now and for the next couple years.

Don't however give up on the higher bands. Propagation on those bands still exists all the way through a sunspot minimum. It's certainly not as abundant as during the sunspot maximum years, but it's not completely absent either.

Make it a point to check the higher bands once in a while, and if you don't hear any activity

don't assume the band is dead. Try some CQ's - you may get a surprise answer. After all, the band will be dead for sure if no one tries to initiate some contacts with a CQ

I would love to see a universal CW calling frequency established on 10, 12, and 15 meters. Then hams could try some CQ's on those frequencies and other hams would know where to listen for those CQ's. Ten meters, for example, is so vast that it is easy for several stations to be calling CQ on various frequencies, yet you can tune the whole band and hear nothing because you pass over those CQers while they are pausing. With a universal calling frequency, you could just monitor one frequency or call CQ yourself on that frequency. Of course several groups do have their own suggested frequencies like the FISTS' .058 and the QRP .060, etc., but that's still not the same as just one universal frequency for everyone per band

Now let's turn to something that may prove to be somewhat controversial. What I'm about to say is my opinion based on my own observations that I hope are wrong, but I don't think so. I've noticed a disturbing trend lately. I run across more and more Internet Chat Groups being formed dealing with CW and QRP. The alleged intention of these groups is to help preserve CW on the ham bands and/or promote the use of QRP. Now that is

all well and good and I agree with those purposes. But (you knew that was coming, didn't you) are the hams who belong to those groups defeating the aims of the groups? I think so, to whatever extent it may be. Let me explain.

Every minute that is spent communicating via the Internet in whatever way - chat groups, email reflectors, personal emails, etc. - is a minute that person could be on the air communicating with CW, be it QRP or QRO. I think this is one cause of the decline in CW activity on the ham bands. It certainly accounts for the scarcity of young 'hams' on CW. They are communicating on the Internet now, whereas in years gone by, they were using RF to communicate via CW or whatever other mode

I have briefly subscribed to a few email reflectors just to see what they were about, and I didn't stay long. It is very time consuming to wade through dozens of 'useless' posts to get to something really meaningful.

That time could be much better spent preserving CW on the ham bands by actually using it rather than just reading about how we should all strive to preserve CW on the ham bands.

I have never joined any ham radio (or any other kind of) chat groups, because I know they definitely can distract folks away from being on the air with CW.

Now there is a place for the Internet in ham radio, just as there is a place for magazines,

newsletters, books, etc. All are a great way to share information if used properly and not to the exclusion of actually getting on the air and pounding brass.

I am the webmaster for two ham radio web sites - my own personal site and the NAQCC site. Both sites exist to help hams with their on-air activities and to encourage them to actually get on the air. Neither site has any chat room, email reflector, etc. because as stated above I feel those things encourage use of Internet communications and thus lessen the amount of CW on the air. Both sites are of a plain design that simply presents the information and are not so glamorous as to encourage hams to spend excess time there.

It's the same with the NAQCC Newsletter that is emailed twice a month. It exists simply to promote the NAQCC on-air activities, of which there are many through which we try to entice hams back into the habit of using CW and QRP.

Think about that and ask yourself if you are wasting too much potential on-air time on Internet matters.

As far as that goes, even reading this column takes away from your on-air time, so perhaps I am being a bit hypocritical here.

Well I managed to ramble on for so long as to have run out of space. Till next column, get on the bands and use CW, be it QRP or QRO!

73 , John Shannon

Hi Hi — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons by Dick Sylvan, W9CBT

Hi Hi—Ham on Wry. Bouncing off the E-layer and spiraling out of the pen of veteran Amateur Radio operator Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, *Hi Hi* provides solid 5 and 9 laughter.

Drawing on six decades of on-air adventures, Dick offers an insider's view of the bliss and twists of Ham Radio. *Hi Hi* makes a great gift for any Ham—to give or get. Each of the book's three sections: Ham Lingo, Ham Quips and Morse Quips & Tips, looks Ham Radio square in the eye and finds it—hilarious—and so will you. So, drop that key, put down that microphone, stow that keyboard and order your copy of *Hi Hi — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons*.

Available at www.k9ya.org/w9cbt, this collection of Dick's cartoons includes and greatly expands his body of work originally published in the *K9YA Telegraph*, a monthly, general interest, Amateur Radio e-Zine.

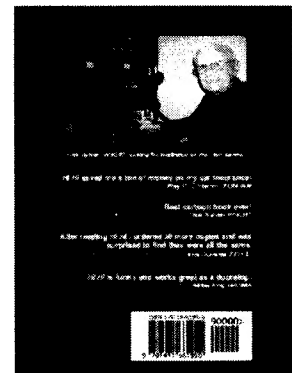
Now in his sixth decade of Hamming, Dick retains all the enthusiasm for the service that originally brought him into the fold. He is an avid and skilled operator who works several modes, both QRO and QRP, and still finds the time to pursue his profession as industrial designer, write articles and create cartoons for the *K9YA Telegraph*.

Every month Dick's work wins accolades from Amateur Radio operators subscribed from more than 90 countries. His fan letters greatly exceed the praise for all other features combined. On occasion, his well-conceived fantasy contraptions have garnered serious queries as to their availability, price and shipping time!

Influenced by the gadget-filled and hilariously skewed world of legendary cartoonist Rube Goldberg, Dick brings that visionary's spirit to Ham Radio.

Hi Hi delightfully and whimsically captures the special brand of humor Ham Radio has generated over its 100-year history.

Link to order: www.k9ya.org/w9cbt



What Is The MSN?

CQ MSN, CQ MSN CQ MSN DE W8CPG x MSN is the Maryland Slow Speed Traffic Net which meets here daily to train traffic handlers and pass traffic x All are welcome x MSN is now QND x please QNZ VVVVV VVVVV x QNN W8CPG/Bruce x MSN QNA MDD rep k.

This is the general call-up for the MSN. The net meets daily at 7:30 p.m. local time on 3717 kHz (with allowance for QRM - or man-made interference) for the purpose of training people in the art of handling traffic. Traffic is the term used for routine as well as emergency and health & welfare messages. Although our traffic is generally "routine" in nature, we are preparing for emergencies when practice leads into preparedness. Those birthday messages to Aunt Susie in WY may become messages requesting emergency medical personnel, ambulances, first aid equipment and supplies in the event of a disaster such as a flood or hurricane.

In traffic handling nets, there are procedures to follow that keep the net orderly instead of chaotic. For example, the NCS (Net Control Station) is the station in charge of the net. It's the NCS's job to be patient, polite, maintain order, and direct stations with traffic to send to the proper receiving stations. The long term goal is to get a message from its point of origin to a final destination that is within reach of a non-toll telephone call.

"Traffic," of course, is a formal "message" sent from one Amateur Radio station to another, to be delivered, usually via telephone, to the final recipient. ARRL numbered radiograms are a form of shorthand for traffic handling. Brevity is the key to efficiency and ARRL radiograms, which are expressed as "ARL xx," contain a pre-structured message that needs only to have a few blank spaces filled in. For example, ARL 46 says "Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come." So, a message can be constructed to Aunt Tilly that says, "Hi Aunt Tilly x ARL 46 x Love BT Suzie AR N" When the message is delivered to Aunt Tilly by telephone, the Ham Operator who calls her should first introduce himself as Ham Operator Fred from Lansing, Michigan and say, "I have a message from Suzie. She said, 'Hi Aunt Tilly, Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come. Love, Suzie'" ARL 56 says "Congratulations on your (*any event - birthday, graduation, new license, etc*), a most worthy and deserved achievement."

Again, you see that many words and time have been condensed into a clear and concise pre-constructed message. All of this is designed to make communications, even in difficult times, efficient and straightforward. There is another shorthand - standard Q signals which are the professional shorthand for CW information exchange. We'll discuss these in Part II of the series.

MSN Training

Training on MSN is divided into 5 levels: Basic, Advanced, Liaison, Instructor and NCS.

The Basic level covers: how to check into a net; how stations are sent off net frequency to exchange traffic (lessons); learning the Q signals; how to properly construct a message; and how to ask for words that are missed or not understood.

In the Advanced level, you'll learn: the procedures for dealing with messages received and delivered; how book traffic (more than one identical message) is sent; participation in the Public Service Honor Roll (published in QST); proper delivery of messages; and the role of the Net Control Station.

The Liaison portion explains: the protocol for directing stations off net frequency to send and receive messages; how the regional and transcontinental nets operate, including sorting of traffic for proper destination; and maintaining a traffic log record.

The Instructor level provides a general understanding of how to operate as an instructor participating in a training net. This includes how messages are numbered; courtesy, patience, operating speed and understanding student's needs and concerns.

The NCS portion reiterates the need for patience and understanding; maintaining orderly net operations; checking stations into and out of the net as well as routing them to other frequencies to transact business; welcoming

new student stations and preparing reports of net activity to the Net Manager.

How do we carry out our training? In order to convey the procedures involved in not only message preparation, but the complete operation of a traffic net, we present this information in the form of on-air messages. We follow a well prepared Training Manual most of which was prepared some 20 years ago by AARC members. Messages are prepared in accordance with the National Traffic System format outlined in the Public Service Communications Manual published by the ARRL and convey a specific piece of information regarding traffic net operation or protocol. The format consists of Preamble, Address, Text and Signature sections. Punctuation is not used except for the symbol BT which is used to separate the Address from the Text and Text from the Signature. This system helps to avoid the confusion and misunderstandings likely to result from "innovative" writers. Brevity is a key component of message composition and requires serious thought to develop a clear and concise statement or question.

Occasionally, the Instructors may quiz their students on how accurately they have copied a training message. The quiz may be in the form of a request: "pse send me the address for msg nr xxx" In addition to testing the student's copying skills, this quiz reinforces the point that the addressee is a critical part of the

message. Just because this is a training session doesn't mean that the address is frivolous. It's important to treat each message as though it were a real message to be delivered to a real person. Instructors have the best interests of their students at heart.

Q signals are the CW shorthand which enable us to exchange potentially lengthy pieces of information with exceptional clarity and precision. Q signals and other pertinent traffic handling information are available on the "pink card" (FSD-218) available from the ARRL. Some examples: 1) if the NCS is late and another station steps in and calls the Net and the first QNI (check in) is the scheduled NCS, the operating NCS should say to the scheduled NCS "QNG?" which means "Will you take over as Net Control Station?" The scheduled NCS should respond "C," (which means "yes") and carry on with the Net. As you can see, QNG? (question), C (response) replaces many, many words and saves a great deal of time, yet retains clear communication; 2) if you can't hear someone – your reply is QNP – nothing more is required. The statement: "I can kind of hear him but he's pretty weak" doesn't tell the NCS what he needs to know – simply QNP does the trick. As you can see, Q signals save valuable time and reduce unnecessary chit chat. We apply the Q signals, use standard abbreviations, do not check up on each other's health on the net, stick to business, and can transact messages in amazingly short time amidst some of

the worst QRN. "Ok, all of this is great, but why do I care?"

MSN - What's in it for me?

There are many perks to training with MSN. One is the development of a skill – namely CW. Although the course begins with a relatively slow speed of about 10wpm (adjusted to meet student needs), as you progress you will notice that your CW operating speed has increased to perhaps 15-18wpm without you realizing it. Why should you care? CW takes up extremely small bandwidth and considerably less energy to convey info. So, in those ever-present circumstances of QRM and QRN, CW characters can be more easily understood than can the spoken word.

The most important thing that you will learn from MSN is proper traffic handling. Your skills will gain you welcome access to the many CW traffic nets. During emergency circumstances, those who have emergency operating skills and procedures well in hand will be called on and welcomed by local and national emergency communications systems. Your skills will be vital in a wide variety of emergency situations.

The MSN and CW traffic is far different from the fone band. With the MSN course, you will learn, via nearly 200 on-air messages, just how professional CW traffic nets are, or should be, conducted. If you decide to take the course, you will find yourself welcomed on any CW net anywhere as a skilled pro, well able

to follow directions of the NCS, deal briefly with questions and not waste time with lengthy explanations of how hard it is to hear someone, how much QRN there is, etc. Learn your Q signals from the pink card and use them as your professional shorthand. .

The MSN instructors do a great job and are very patient as long as our students have a positive attitude and exhibit a desire to learn. To get the most out of MSN:

- spend some time with WIAW to practice your CW in between MSN sessions to help make your lessons easier and take less time;

- never QSL (accept) a message until you have copied it correctly, since these messages form your course textbook;

- be prepared by reading about nets in the ARRL Operating Manual and ARRL Net Directory;

- get some ARRL radio-gram forms, so that you're prepared to copy your lessons in the proper format and make your word counts faster and easier;

- be prepared to QSY (change frequency) when the NCS or your instructor tells you where to move (on MSN it's usually up or down the band in increments of 3kHz, until you - the receiving station - find a clear spot where you are not interfering with another station).

I'm sure you will enjoy the course, if you're really interested in building a good CW/ham skill. If you are willing to tackle a challenge with a great reward

at the end, check into the MSN and ask for training information. I will send you a starter info packet regarding the net. After you receive the packet, check into MSN and ask for training message number one (nr 1), and you'll be on your way.

Remember, when the fone lines are down, cell phones don't work, the Internet is "gone" and SSB is as usual, the CW ops come through in grand style. For those with Internet access, there is a wealth of information available regarding the Maryland Slow Net at <http://www.bdb.com/~msn/>. Hope to see you at 7:30 p.m. on 3717 kHz.

73,

Bruce/W8CPG

MSN Net Manager

w8cpg@arrrl.net

Excerpted from
The Ham Arundel News
Anne Arundel Radio Club
Davidsonville MD 21035
www.w3vpr.org
July 2005

Antennas for Restricted

Places by George Armstrong, K9GA, All Rights Reserved (printed in part in WorldRadio magazine)

During 2004, I noticed an article in FISTS North America requesting assistance for operators in apartments and other restricted sites. I also thought of operators that may not be restricted, yet wish to maintain a low profile. Setting a few expectations was my first thought. I wanted to suggest some antennas that would really work! You could contact solid DX, or within North America, most hours of the day, with a 100 Watt Transceiver.

The answer, my friends, is band and location related. It may be unique to the operator's personal situation. For this reason, I've published a companion web site, www.81x.com/fists/antennas for a broad range of solutions. It also enables you to send me questions directly from the Page. Readers are also welcome to send questions via good old US Postal mail.

Within this article, I suggest several antennas that fit restricted sites. Technical goals of each are: restricted stray RF, efficiency, minimized coupling to nearby objects, stealth, Standing Wave Ratio (Yes, SWR!), angle of radiation, and RFI/TVI. I also wanted resonance, simplicity, band width, power handling, safety, multi band capability and performance. While reaching for the stars a bit, these should be attainable.

I've seen a wide range of commercially available antennas for restricted space. I don't discourage trying these products. However, most antennas I suggest here, or at my web site, are at modest expense, but decent performance. They should provide plenty of signal for your buck. Most can be either purchased, or made from scratch. It is the configuration, materials, and feed method that enable them to fit your restricted space needs.

One of my favorites is an Inverted Vee, fed with a 50 ohm, 1 to 1 balun. However, you can feed it with just 50 ohm coax if desired. One feed line/balun can feed several bands. The ends can be bent without much impact on performance. It is a bit noisy on receive, but very capable on transmit. It has solid bandwidth, SWR capability near 1 to 1, and needs no ground or radials. It doesn't need to be high, however, height is a plus. At 100 watts, you can use thin insulated wire colored to blend with the surroundings. Indoors, it can easily hang from rafters, drooping to the floor with insulators. A light weight inverted vee can be stored in a plastic bag. It can be taped at the apex to a wall, or hung by the apex from a discreet disconnect such as a thin nail or hook painted the same color as the wall. Try the green Radio Shack #18 or #16 hookup wire to blend with vegetation.

My favorite wire HF indoor antenna for 20 meters through 10 meters is the Delta Loop. Feed it middle bottom or middle side with $\frac{1}{4}$ electrical wave of RG59 or RG11 as a transformer. A 2 to 1 Balun can be used instead of the transformer. It is very quiet on receive with some gain broadside to the plane of the loop. Position it broadside to your favorite directions, and use quality insulators. It doesn't need to be a perfect triangle. If the perfect triangle fits, use it. If it doesn't, provide as much distance from the apex to the base as you can. Like the inverted vee, it can go under a roof, on a wall, or quick store in a plastic bag. I was amazed at how much DX I worked with this antenna.

The G5RV in an Inverted Vee configuration is also

very good. It has the advantage that one antenna covers several bands. It is quiet on receive, yet easy to match. At 100 watts, use thin insulated wire colored to blend in. The ends can be bent, and can be within a few feet of the ground. This may be the premier stealth performer, but unless you are very creative, it is offered here as an outdoor solution.

The Radio Works Carolina Windom LP is a fine new product. Presented here as an outdoor stealth antenna, it can be set up with one support, with the apex of a vee about midpoint, or as a sloper. Easily hidden and multi-band, you will have fun with this antenna. Find it using Google, search string "RADIO WORKS". The PAR HF END-FEDZ EF-20 is quiet on receive, but a solid 20 meter performer. It can be set up as a sloper in an attic, an apartment, or from a balcony. It is mono-band, with models for other bands available. Find it with Google search term "END-FEDZ".

The Butternut HF6V vertical can be easily hidden, yet provides true performance on many bands. With the add-on counterpoise, you could use it from a balcony, or clustered in some bushes. Make it truly portable with a quick disconnect above the coils. The disconnect can be a polystyrene rod with an aluminum strap, and wing nut bolts. I have heard that some operators have shortened it by using the top sections at a right angle to the main part of the antenna. It's a bit noisy on receive, but a fine performer. Find the HF6V at Bencher.com.

If you like the lower bands, you can have a lot of fun with an inverted "L", fed from the ground with 50 ohm coax, a ground, and some stealthy radials. It also can be thin insulated wire, colored to blend in. Use insulators where needed to isolate it. I suggest it can be virtually invisible with a little effort and creativity.

My web site covers more products, designs, and ideas, including gain and DX antennas for those who are willing to invest more time, and perhaps more money. Try some of these ideas before giving up!

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Looks like the new Millionaire award has really taken off and become a popular award with the membership. Be sure and let Nancy know how much you are enjoying the Millionaire series, it as it was her brain child. Thanks Nancy, you hit the nail on the head with that one!

I took a two week vacation and to Clovis, NM during the last of Feb and beginning of March. When I returned home I started to download all the e-mails and award logs from the Comcast server Well, my e-mail program (which will remain nameless) downloaded the first 14 e-mails and then hung up my computer and continued to delete the rest of the 60 plus e-mails from the server!!!! To say the least, I was very upset, as there were a lot of award logs lost because of that problem. My apologies to all.

IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ!!!!

If you sent me an award log via e-mail sometime between Feb 24 and March 13 of 2006 and I have not sent your award, . . . PLEASE send your log to me again!

Remember:

use the awards e-mail address, Fistsawards@comcast.net to send in your award logs.

Please send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs, delay receiving your award certificate.

The FISTS number for KN0WCW can only be counted ONCE toward the Century Series Awards, just like all FISTS numbers only count ONCE.

Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information Regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:

<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

Other groups on the air have recently started giving out CC numbers. Please make sure the CC (century certificate) numbers you use for your awards are FISTS CC numbers. CC numbers from other groups do not count toward FISTS awards.

If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail me with your questions.

Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . .

73, Dennis K6DF

AWARDS ISSUED - Nov 18, 2005 to Apr 4, 2006

Basic Century (CC)

AB1BW
AB8RK
AE6TY
AG0J
K4OKK
K4OZF
K5LAC
K7CIE
KA8HFN
KB3MMI
KC8SRJ
KD5EJA
KD5QJA
KE7FSG
KF0UU
KG0PP
KG6TWU
KG6YSX
KI0J
KI4GLH
KJ5RL
KS4HE
N2LQ
N3FGO
N4RAY
NA8M
NA9U
NE5DL
NF7H
NF9A
NQ4Q
W5PAA
W6BK
W6LAX
W7CCW
W7GVE
W7RCK
W8LSV
WA0MBK

Silver Century

AB0XE
K0RDS
K5LAC
KC8SRJ
KE7XU
KG0IT
KG4YLZ
KG6TWU
KI4DGH
N4GX
NC0A
VE2OI
W7GVE
W8KYD
W9DQ
W9SJW
WB0QQT
WQ9Z
WZ8K

Gold Century

AD7HD
KA4JQZ
KI4DEF
WB8MON
WB9DLC

Diamond Century

N7NU

Platinum Award

AB0XE
K5LAC
K5POA
KC8SRJ
KC9BSP
KD5RSS
KF4YP
KG0IT
KG4YLZ
KI0J

KI4DGH
KI4GLH
N2LQ
N4GX
N4RAY
N7GEB
VE1CB
W7GVE
W8KYD
W8LSV
W9RSR
WQ9Z

Platinum 250 Award

AD7HD
KA4JQZ
KI4DEF
NX2GW
WB8MON

Platinum 500 Award

G4LQO
K9PL
N0BZM
WB4MED
WD5DWC

Worked All States (FISTS)

9A2HF
AK7O
N4GX

1 X QRP

AE6TY
KD5GRF
KG6IIP

RCC

KI4DEF

Millionaire

K0TC
K2VT
K4IA
K4UK
K5LAC
K6DF
K7ZYV
KB1LBP
KB3JAR
KC0JKD
KE5AQD
KI4DEF
N2LQ
N3RSD
N4GX
N4RAY
W1GUE
W5GXV
W7GVE
W7PFZ
W8III
W8LSV
WB4MED
WB8MON
WE9N
WQ9Z

2 Million

K4IA
K6DF
KC0JKD
W5GXV
W8III
WB4MED
WB8MON
WQ9Z

3 Million

KC0JKD
W8III
WB4MED

Fun, Satisfaction and Pride

By Hector (Luigi) Perez NP4FW

My very good friend Virgil KP4Q and myself have always had a friendly head breaking argument as to "Who Deserves The Real Merit on QRP": the person who sends, or the one who receives.

Virgil claims that the real merit must go to the guy that sends the low signal and by the contrary, I feel that the merit should go to the one who receives.

Here is a guy trying to push a weak signal between folks running heavy power, in the middle of bad conditions, weak propagation or maybe a huge pileup. At the other end, there is another guy trying to obtain the best from his antenna or radio system while pulling a weak signal out of the mess. For both parties, it takes a lot of effort, a lot of stress, a lot of precious time and much more, a real hard time if it happens that they find themselves in the middle of a contest.

But to work QRP provides a lot of satisfaction and pride. Satisfaction on the results you are getting from the conditions you are running. Small QRP radio, maybe a straight key, your old faithful antenna which your friends claim is a "cheap one" compared to the ones they use. And I must not forget the great sense of joy when you work a station you know.

And then pride. There is great
Issue 3 2006

pride on your own personal skills. Pride on your own personal behavior, the way you do your own things, your individual tricks or rules, or maybe a few things you put into action that you learned from more experienced colleagues.

There are also constraints some times. First, it is no fun to work from late Friday to late Sunday having only short breaks during a contest. It is very tiresome to use a straight key for a long period of time. I end up quite busted myself. On top of that, due to head surgery, I am 100% deaf from the left side so for me, there is a real burden on copying with just one ear squeezing my signal among the huge bunch to grab a station, or to zero beat to another.

Here I was, sitting on my shack, pounding my well kept Navy Knob, using near 5 watts out of my tiny MFJ QRP Rig, while working the ARRL CW DX Contest. It was a thrill. This is by the way, a contest I always work on a QRP basis, always using a tiny MFJ 20 meter rig and always the same old Navy Knob key.

I called CQ CQ de NP4FW/QRP with no luck for a short period of time. I have to confess that I started "sweating" a little but my spirit was up. Ten to fifteen minutes passed and then, "bingo"; I heard the sweet NP4FW/QRP de KA2... At last, the first contact was made and I was happy.

I kept hammering my key and

then another contact was made, and then another and another and so on. As the evening progressed a few more contacts were logged. Then, to my surprise a station from Jamaica got me up and then a French station came by, and even a station from Sweden.

While these contacts were not valid for me at contest level, there is an old saying that states "no diabetic turns down a lollypop" so I worked all of these stations as well. It proves that a QRP signal can travel very far and to unexpected places. I was really amazed so I kept working until I was so tired that I felt asleep for a short while in front of my radio. Hours later, I had to finally give up for the first evening and went to bed.

The ARRL DX CW Contest is very a very good one. First it is a way to maintain your individual CW skills in shape. Also, anyone can work the All States Award on a snap. You can even grab a few FIST members while keying near the FISTS frequency and asking before you end any QSO ... "Hey OM, before we finish ... I am a FISTS member are you a FISTS dih did ah dah dih dih? You never know what you can get. Yes, the contest is not for working FISTS but ... what the heck ... its fun and if by the same token I can work a couple of FISTERS ... well ... Praised Be The Lord .

Years ago, I was the number one for my area. The League sent me a certificate for my achievement.

Maybe I really came out number one among many others. Maybe there was no one else out there but me. I don't care. Once again, it was fun and my only goal was to beat my previous year record. The year before I worked 140 stations at QRP. Then next year I was set to work over my 140 limit.

I read with great enthusiasm the column written at the Keynote by K3WWP. Hats up for him, I wish some day I can meet him in person. I have placed into action many of his tips and counseling. He is someone I must follow and I urge others to go out there and work QRP.

Dedicate one day during the month to work QRP, set your own goal; any goal. Maybe in May you decide you are going to work Europe. Maybe in June it is going to be Asia; maybe stations from a particular state area, or IOTAS, or stations ending with the same letters as yours, or just any stations at all. I can guarantee, you are going to have lots of fun, great satisfaction and pride.

Who Is Doing the "Work"?

QRP operating is certainly a rewarding experience but I must disagree with John's (N2UC) suggestion awarding "Big Ear" certificates. First off, everything we do depends on propagation. Not "good receiving equipment". We all make do with what radios we own.

The reputation given to QRP'ers

is also unfair. "I won't struggle to work a QRP signal just because he's sending low power". How many times have you heard something like that? Let me state a fact: One S-unit on a meter consists of 6db increase or decrease in signal strength. You must increase your power 4 times to achieve an increase of one S-unit! Sounds like a awful waste of energy for one S-unit. Lowering your power 25% results in reduction of signal of one S-unit.

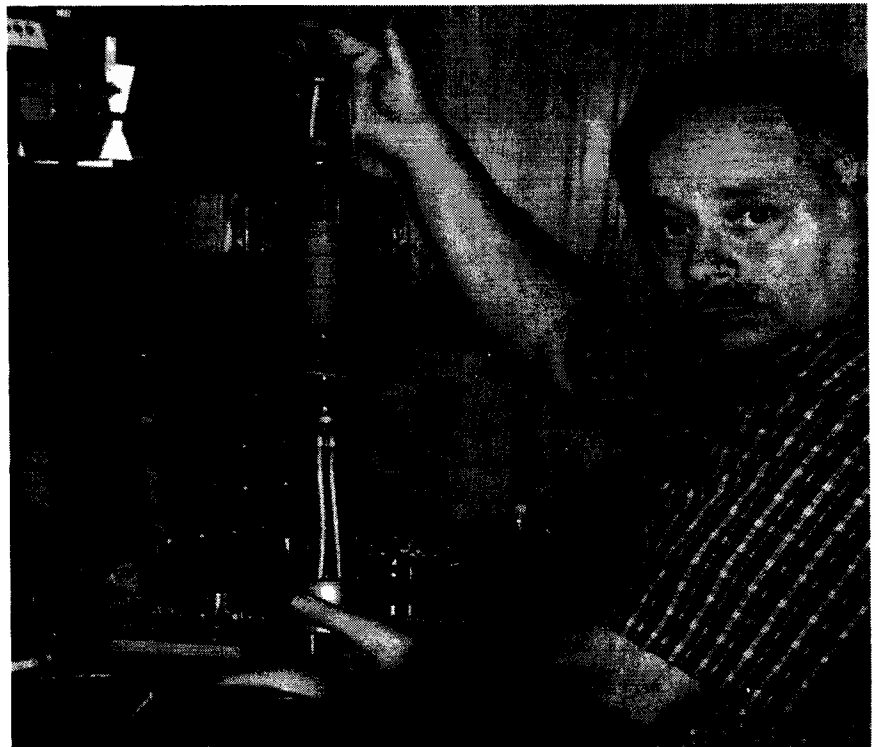
So: It stands to reason that: if 125 watts is getting S7 reports, reducing power 1/4 to 31.25 watts is S6, reducing power further to 7.8 watts is S5, Reducing power again, using same ratio to 1.95 watts is S4. The difference between 100 watt signal and 2

watt signal is only THREE S-units! If the 100 watt station got S7, the same QRP station would get S4!

In real world, many stations you have worked could be QRP. Like John (K3WWP) wrote in his article, I never sign my call with QRP either. Many of these QRP stations may read 5 to 9 S-units during any given QSO. Yes, there are stations "in the noise" but same is true for QRO stations running 100 watts. Teeni weeni radios don't necessary mean teeni weeni signals.

I commend John's (N2UC) efforts to recognize QRP stations but a certificate for working X number of QRP stations would fly much better. 72's Ron, WBIHGA

Not a QRP'er, Awards Manager, Dennis K7DF, changes the "Driver" tube in his amp.



HOW DO I...

Info on How to do just about anything related to FISTS

HOW DO I JOIN?

Membership is open to all people interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. An application form is not necessary to join, but it gives us a more complete picture of our membership. You can download a North American membership application on the FISTS web page: <http://www.fists.org>. An application can be mailed to you. Send a message Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com and he will email it to you, or mail an SASE to him at 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail. To join without an application, send your name, call, and mailing address with your membership fee to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS). To join using Paypal (www.paypal.com), send the funds to fists@tir.com. In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address if different from your Paypal address.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Subscriptions are \$15.00/year; Under 18= FREE; College students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and send to FISTS, P O Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. Do not send FISTS correspondence to Nancy WZ8C's callbook address. Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, and then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", and then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. It does NOT take 8 weeks to get your number; it just may take that long for your check to clear.

WHAT IF I AM A MEMBER UNDER 18 or OVER 79?

To continue a teen (17-) or old-timer membership (80+), you must notify WZ8C of your continued interest in FISTS, renewals are not automatic.

HOW DO I JOIN USING MY PAYPAL ACCOUNT?

North American FISTS accepts PAYPAL (<http://www.paypal.com>). Address your PAYPAL payment to FISTS@TIR.COM To join via Paypal, type "New Membership" in the Paypal Comments Box, your name (if different from the name on your Paypal account), callsign, and mailing address.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?

We send renewal postcards, but if you renew prior to your renewal month it will save postage and printing costs as well as volunteer time. Your renewal date is on your Keynote mailing label in the form of year, month, date. For example 2005/4/4 would be a renewal date April 2005. The date of the month is meaningless, but the computer program requires a date, so generally the date of the month is the same as the month. 2005/12/12; 2006/5/5 etc. RENEWALS ARE FREE FOR AGES 80 AND UP & 17 AND YOUNGER.

HOW DO I RENEW?

To renew, send \$15 to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. If you have a Paypal account, send the funds to fists@tir.com; put "RENEWAL" in the Comment Box, along with your callsign.

MAY I RENEW FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR AT A TIME?

Yes! You may renew for as many years at a time as you like, but there is not a 'quantity' discount.

MY MEMBERSHIP LAPSED; CAN I GET MY OLD NUMBER BACK?

Yes - numbers are not reassigned. If you have had a number in the past, please let Nancy know at the time of your renewal. so she can 'reactivate' it

WHERE DO I MAIL A DX APPLICATION OR RENEWAL?

ZL,VK applications are go to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand. East Asia inquiries to Jean at join@fists-ea.org All other applications are to be mailed to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?

Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge. To defray costs, please

enclose \$3 when a club applies for an award and wants a certificate. There is no charge for a Century Certificate number, just for the certificate if one is desired. Membership certificates are \$1 for clubs.

HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?

Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or email to nancy@tir.com. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

HOW DO I GET A PRINTED UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST?

Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page. The search engine feature on the main web page is updated more frequently than the text list on the web page, but only includes North American members.

HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST?

To receive periodic official Email updates, send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton. fistelist@comcast.net. If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?

Irene W08E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible We offer: Metallic gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200 Blue enamel cloisonné/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$1.50 White enamel cloisonné pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50 Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn. Plastic travel mugs with "I (heart) CW" and FISTS CW Club on them - \$5. You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the comments box. Be sure your name & address are included. ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS?

Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver: I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and Join the Code Crusade <http://www.fists.org>

The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back. The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL. All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. The total prices including postage are: T-shirts = \$6.00 Sweats = \$11.00 Polos = \$15.00 NOTE: Contact Nancy WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA or bulk order postage. You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440 Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com. This is a limited time opportunity. When the shirts are gone - they're GONE, so get yours now!

HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?

Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?

For a brochure, email Jim AA9LS at aa9ls@turbotoads.com with their name, call sign, and postal address. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 An application is available for downloading on our web page <http://www.fists.org>.

HOW DO I PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?

Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/year American Cash. Non-European (Africa etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo. For Oceania or East Asia, contact these chapters directly. Geo accepts paypal to fist1@btinternet.com.

APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?

Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Please put FISTS in the title of your email. Awards are free for members in good standing. Clubs with FISTS numbers and non-members in good standing must pay \$3 for award certificates.

WHAT IS KN0WCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW?

KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission contact Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?

W3GR, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email W3GR@arrl.net. We need ELMERS and Buddies, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

HOW DO I GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTO PAGES?

Send a snapshot of yourself with your face about the size of a quarter to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?

The Keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038. The Keynote is read by John Whitt, AI4FR. You can contact John with your comments and suggestions at AI4FR@Verizon.net

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION to give at my local club meeting?

It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?

Contact Bill KK4KF at kk4kf@cox.net

HOW DO I ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?

You may use the FISTS logos and get cards from any printer you wish. Cheapqsls.com has made a special FISTS card with special pricing for FISTS members. For ordering information and to see the cards visit <http://www.cheapqsls.com/fists.htm>

HOW DO I ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?

Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$8.20 postpaid from The Sign man of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS?

Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF THE K7QO CODE COURSE?

FISTS makes this wonderful course available free of charge. To get a copy, when available, send an SASE big enough to hold a CD and with enough return postage to Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

Falkland Islands Trip – a Brief Report from Andy, VP8DJO / ZD8AD / G0JLX

This story was in the DX April Keynote

As some of you may be aware, I have just returned from a 1 month trip down to the Falkland Isles, located deep in the South Atlantic Ocean, some 51½° S, and almost 58° W.

The background to this trip was that it was intended to last for 2 weeks, that I was very weight limited, I needed a good selection of clothes to accommodate vastly different weather conditions, so I had no space for even my portable ATU, and the VSWR function needed to be entrusted to my FT-897 rig – so no space for external metering at all. I needed a small, lightweight portable antenna that I could just chuck in my suitcase and go with, so rather than tote the doublet and the tuner that type of antenna implies along, I thought I'd try the ultra lightweight option of a Buddipole for a change. I also had to purchase a suitable switch mode PSU that was both lightweight and able to give me 22A on demand, as my good old (very large solid linear Drae) PSU that I took out to Ascension Island with me last year was just not on for this trip with clothes as well.

For those that don't know, the Falkland Isles comprise two main islands, East and West Falkland, and a gaggle of smaller islands surrounding them with an amazing variety of wildlife. Terrain varies between flat-ish open tundra and a range of mountains that rise to well over 1300 feet in places. Wx varies daily between beautifully sunny and a howling gale with hail or rain and temp ranges from -2°C to +19°C or so in summer.

Upon arrival at the house I was staying at, it was immediately clear that this was not going to be the best radio site in the world as it was a bungalow, situated about 1/3 up a hillside, with an 11kV power line running behind the house and a huge mast or two on the top of the hill behind us. I noted that the house was not very high above the water line of the local sea inlet that abound the Falklands. Across the water there was another set of sizeable hills !

On my first full day I called by the main Post Office in Stanley (the sole issuing authority)

and completed a small application form, paid my one-off £20 fee for a lifetime licence and walked out 10 minutes later with callsign VP8DJO. Wonderful – all set for some fun.

I was operating exclusively from East Falkland on this trip – sometimes from the bungalow where I was staying in Stanley, sometimes from the 4WD jeep on a hilltop. To be honest, I got better results when operating /mobile from the jeep than I did from the bungalow as the latter was so low down and near the sea water level. The hills across the other side of the inlet also played a part in my poor Tx sigs from this QTH methinks.

Station comprised my trusty FT-897 & new PSU running 100W into either the Buddipole (40m – 10m) or one of two very low dipoles (40m & 80m) and a straight key. Given that this was supposed to be a short sharp trip, operating was only ever going to be a couple of hours per night at best, so I decided to give it a go anyway, and the Buddipole was duly set up on its pole at the end of the garden strapped to a rather wonky metal fencepost hammered into the rocky soil at a most strange angle !

It was only at this point in time that I realised that I'd left the damn tuning chart for the Buddipole in the UK !!!

For those of you unfamiliar with the Buddipole, it has two fixed arms, two coils with individually-settable tapping points, and two telescopic arms that between them provide resonance per band with some careful setting. It was the chart of those careful settings I'd left behind in the box at home, some 8500 miles away.

After finding out how to access the internet locally (and that's a palarva), I was able to get an email message to Budd, W3FF, the designer and original builder of the Buddipole and have his firm send me a soft copy of the tuning chart by email (wonderful invention). Armed with this info I was able to get the Buddipole working on a couple of bands with a reasonable VSWR as reported by the rig's VSWR bar meter function. In the meantime, I had knocked up a couple of single band inverted V dipoles as mentioned for 80m and 40m that worked, but were really far too low down near the ground to

be very effective.

The Buddipole comes complete with all the hardware needed to achieve connection to the radio, except that I needed to extend the feeder a good bit to reach the back fence where the antenna was from my back bedroom in the house where the shack was. Fortunately, I was able to make a long coaxial extension up with a back-to-back adaptor without any difficulty and weatherproof it. It all worked OK and I was able to get started.

Initial results were promising – lots of the right sort of noise out of the Rx and once the settings for each of the intended bands were established for the Buddipole, I found it quite quick and easy to QSY – especially between some bands where I just had to swap the coil tapings over and leave the arms and whips alone.

Generally, band conditions were not kind – with only a handful of QSO's into South America and the odd one into North America or Canada, it became quite clear that propagation was not working well, except for a couple of days when I decided to try operating /mobile from local hilltops that I could reach with the jeep.

I persevered with the station in the bungalow, calling and calling, but apart from the odd QSO as above, very little doing. Plenty of activity on the bands – I just could not make myself heard – 51 to 53 Tx was good going for this station. I did think the take-off angle for the Buddipole might be a bit high and that was almost confirmed one day when I heard VP8DIZ calling from about 30 miles up the road – and I could NOT get back to him on 15m.

2m is used by everybody on the Falklands, so only very limited opportunity for an Amateur Radio "chat" there. 70cm is even more limited with very little activity, so I decided to stay firmly with HF apart from a couple of natters on 2m with VP8ML.

After about a week, it became clear that the bungalow site was not good. Only a handful of QSO's as reported, so I decided to try the mobile option. Key factors here were that the QTH had to be accessible with a vehicle, be fairly level and of at least moderately hard standing (very difficult on

peat bog to stay afloat in a jeep, even with great big wide tyres if you stop moving). Much examining of the OS maps available ensued and mission planning swung into action as this was clearly going to be a major expedition or two.

Secondly, I had to get the Buddipole off the fence at the bungalow and get it strapped onto the front bullbars of the jeep somehow – see pictures of the result – wonderful what you can do with a broom stick and a few hefty cable ties and a bit of improvisation !!



Amazingly, I realised that I had not bought any big croc clips for connecting the rig to the battery, so had to run around in Stanley one day looking for some – and even that was easier said than done. As you can see from the pictures, I did manage to find some eventually, and made them up onto the long power cable for the rig I'd bought along 'just in case' of /m ops. Upon opening the bonnet, I discovered that the jeep had two batteries – one for starting and one for the aircon and auxillaries (i.e. radio). Great ! (see photo at the end of the article on the next page)

The first attempt was on what I had hoped would be a good site a few miles away from the mountain range, on the south side of it, overlooking a great deal of East Falkland, but to my disappointment, after 5 hours, only about 4 QSO's. QTH abandoned.

On the second attempt I tried a different QTH on the way to Salvador in the north of East Falkland, so I was north of the mountain range for a change – and had spotted a good flat RF takeoff to the north, west and east for a long way (several miles) before any hills !

On this trip, I did manage a few QSO's with the UK and Continental Europe very successfully and somebody very kindly (!) spotted me on the DX cluster. As I worked through the resulting pileup over the next couple of hours until the band went flat again about 7pm local, just as it was getting dark, I did manage to work my old chum G0OOC, who although not a FIST by any means, has only just emerged from the depths of single band working on 80m to the wonderful world of multiband HF. His setup is modest, but he still managed to get a 57 from me. It was interesting that he could only give me a 54 however, which I think proves the point I was making. 8500 statute miles as the Upland Goose (and RF) flies as far as we could tell. The nice thing about a huge diesel engine is that it can chug away for hours and hours and not get fussed about it – so running the engine on tickover to keep the batteries in good condition, and myself warm whilst operating on said hilltop was of no concern at all. Chill factor when stood outside the jeep on the rock, reaching up to adjust the Buddipole for QSY's was frightening. I felt chilled to the bone when I got back into the warm jeep.

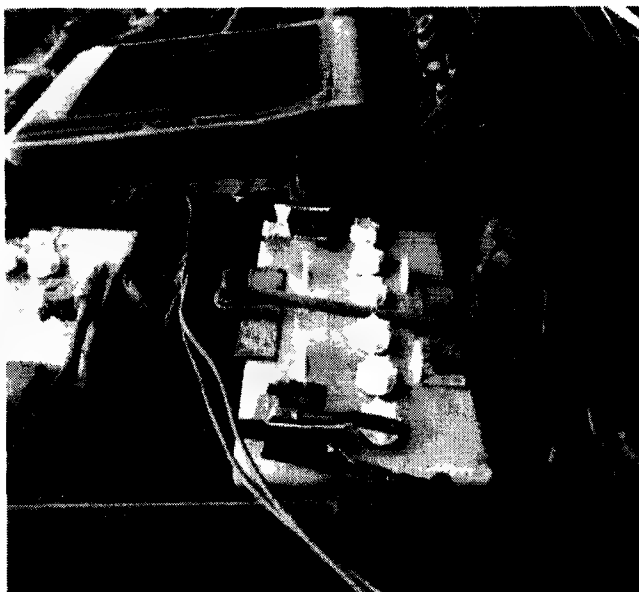


Unlike in the UK when I do this, I had no thermos

flask for a cuppa, so resorted to soft drinks to keep the throat lubricated. You can perhaps imagine the scene ? The pictures only tell a small part of the story.

The other big problem was keeping the log – I was writing all this down in my log book which has a hard cover – just as well I hear you mutter. But the steering wheel kept getting in the way and I almost resorted to sitting in the passenger seat (or even the back seat ??) to operate. Next time I might just consider the jump seats facing each other in the rear luggage compartment that are normally folded up. Aahh, the joys of operating from a 4WD camper van with a table I hear you cry. . . .well, I'm on the lookout.

And that my dear friends is about the size of it for this ditty – a month long trip and only just about 100 contacts, but I have to say it really was most enjoyable and I look forward to working you very soon if you're not already in the log. Of the couple of CW QSO's I had, they were all into South America, and not a FIST amongst them, but never mind – there's always another time. Vy 73 de Andy



For more photos, visit the UK web site:
<http://www.fists.co.uk/kn0406/N0406%20Falklands%20Trip.htm>



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – April 2006

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SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)
18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **VK3TX-Deane Blackman #9664**, who lives in Narre Warren East. Narre Warren is about 38km southeast of the heart of Melbourne; Narre Warren is now part of the City of Casey that was formed in 1994 in a major reshuffle of the metropolitan local government areas. Narre Warren was among a cluster of rural communities that served early travellers to the Gippsland region. They are all now part of one of the fastest growing residential and commercial areas in the greater Melbourne region - a municipality stretching from the Dandenong Ranges to the shores of Western Port, with a broad, ethnically-based population of 183,00, which is expected to peak at around 300,000 in the first quarter of the 21st century. Although the first settlers were mainly pastoralists, the districts heavy black soil was particularly suited to potatoes and grain.

Welcome back to **VK4JRB – John # 9054** in Perth, Western Australia who has renewed his membership after a short break

DONATIONS

Thanks to **VK5BSC - Brian # 9601, VK2UK - Ted # 9620 and ZL1MAD – Dusty # 9051** for generous donations received when renewing their subscriptions.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS NEWS

ZL1BRS – SYD # 9013, writes in a letter to the Editor that he is on the move once again. This time the move is from Middlemarch to Dunedin mainly so that Mary can be nearer her extended family. They move into their new home in early April so it shouldn't be too long before Syd is back on the bands again.

ZL2TX – NIGEL # 9040, only just settling down after a double move himself, suddenly found himself involved in another double move with younger son Phillip. Only just getting over this but at least it meant I could pick up all my aluminium tubing and trap antennas and bring them home. Hopefully, I will be back on the bands again soon. As you may or may not be aware, whilst all this moving was going on - Ralph, ZL2AOH kindly took over the reigns as Editor for several months in my absence. Without my computer I was stuffed! Many thanks for all your efforts Ralph! We won't be moving again. Hi.
Recent visitors to entertain have been Bill, ZL1VS and Ralph, ZL2AOH.

ZL2JKY – Jakey # 6462, reports that he did enter the recent Commonwealth Contest under but his own call sign. (The request that he operate the ZL6FF Club Call Sign may not have arrived in time – Ed).

ZL6FF – FISTS CLUB Down Under, New Zealand # 9600, needs to be aired. Any volunteers willing to put the call on the bands are asked to contact Nigel, ZL2TX address in Header either by post or e-mail. If I receive a few requests I promise you will all get a turn and that all requests will be answered, so come on guys it is your Club and just think of the points you will be handing out. All we ask is that you keep a proper log of all contacts. We will deal with any QSL Cards.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS' NEWS

Another message from our good friend **2E0BGD - Brian # 7741**: - Greetings Ralph, Great to hear from you again and many thanks for another super newsletter. Do hope that all is well 'Down under', all fine here bearing in mind the circumstances and looking forward to the springtime. Having some nice CW QSOs lately into USA on 20 so the bands are picking up. There is now hope of a new radio club here in Bath as a result of so many new Hams from G0FUW Steve Hartley's classes, the problem is getting the location as car parking is a great pain in the city But informal get togethers are taking place in a local hostelry!! (If you meet somewhere else, Brian, you may find attendance diminishing!)

Congratulations to **9A2HF -Franc # 8329** on obtaining his FISTS Down Under Award. Franc is the third member outside VK/ZL to achieve this. Franc does not have e-mail facilities but his application was forwarded by **9A2WJ - Daki # 7767**. Thanks for assisting, Daki.

G0JLX - Andy # 0358 has recently spent a couple of weeks working in the Falkland Islands. While there he managed to spend some time operating as VP8DJO. He reported that the propagation conditions and local topography of his QTH there were not conducive to good DX. He did not work any down under stations. He had an arranged sked with a VK station but heard nothing and only managed to work one US station. Working mobile with a buddipole attached to the front bumper of a Jeep from a good spot, he managed a number of QSOs with EU, UK and elsewhere. - Not long ago, Andy worked as ZD8AD from Ascension Island. We wonder where Andy's work will take him next!

MEMBERS PROFILES**DEANE BLACKMAN, VK3TX # 9664.**

My interest in amateur radio was kindled while I was a PhD student in England. I went there from Australia with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering - minimal electrics - to work in an aspect of a topical aeronautical problem. In the event the project had a significant electronic component, for the necessary instrumentation, and the leading technician to whom I had need to refer turned out to be an amateur. In addition, my (new) wife and I had conceived the idea of a trip on the European canals when the studies were over, and in preparation for that I had been looking into the question of marine radio for safety purposes in crossing the English Channel. I was by now using an old "command" set, complete with gene-motor, which I had modified to listen to 160m broadcasts in the UK.

Upon return to Australia in 1964 I set about immediately getting an amateur licence. Initially this was a "restricted" licence, but I upgraded it pretty quickly, securing the coveted 2-letter call I still hold. I soon found myself deeply involved in the politics of the WIA too, but from the outset, operationally, never used phone much, on HF anyway. I have won several CW-only certificates in the Australian John Moyle Field Day contest, and have a "Worked Victorian National Parks" award, made using CW only. I was using an army disposal set for this last, attractive because of the flexibility of the output tuning even though the power was low. I made some mobile contacts with it, my wife driving at the time, and got reports of harmonic modulation to the carrier, caused by the massive grids in the oscillator valves bobbing up and down with the motion of the vehicle.

Things came to a pause in 1983, when the huge bush-fires, known here as the "Ash Wednesday Fires", destroyed almost all my equipment. All that survived was the Yaesu FT101 that I had taken to a field day the previous weekend, my hand key and my Bug. I was now holding a University post, and its commitments were rising exponentially. I stopped hamming. However, a few years ago I fell ill and was obliged to resign my academic position. Having, at least for the moment, overcome that problem left me with the pleasant prospect of spare time and, even better, no stress.

I must confess it has not been too easy getting back the confidence, and facility, to rejoin the CW end of the bands. It is amazing the extent to which you lose a skill when you do not exercise it. It has been a case of trying to teach an old dog, forgotten tricks. I am hoping the encouragement which Fists offers - will keep me at it and I am looking forward to enhanced enjoyment as a result.

Deane VK3TX #9664

FRANCIS ALLOWAY, VK4AFW # 9639

It was early in 1972 that I first became interested in electronics. I took my teenage son to the local Radio Club hoping he may take an interest in radio, as a hobby. However, it was not to be for him - but I became interested, and decided to look further into it.

I was 45 years old then and my IQ had never been anything to rave about. So after 5 years of frustration and heartaches and help from some very patient people, courses at the Ipswich & District Radio Club, and the advent of the Novice Licence, I came on the air with the call VK4NBF on 5th January 1977. I think I was the first novice on air in Ipswich.

My first set was Crystal controlled on the eleven metre band which was part of the Amateur bands at that time. Some of you who are reading this and can remember those days may have a smile on your face, as it was smack in the middle of the CB boom. Who can remember demands like "Get off the call channel" or "Who is that bloody button pusher?"

Believe it or not, with the help and expertise of a couple other amateurs we managed to modify those little sets to send CW and that did not do anything to help the relations with the CB-ERS.

It was nearly two years and two attempts before I finally got the full call and came on air with VK4AFW on 6th November 1978. I have always been keen on CW. I have a fair ability to send the code but my receiving leaves a little to be desired. However, I will still keep listening for F1 stations and maybe will be fortunate enough to get that CC number (over half way) and go on to further glory.

Francis VK4AFW # 9639

COLIN MCKENZIE, ZL- SWL # 9663

This is just a little regarding radio in my life and how it has always fascinated me down through the years. Let me start by how I came to ring the NZART Headquarters. I go on the Internet quite a bit these days and get information from Google. Things drop into your mind that trigger what you should look for next, so I put in "A" class amplifier design and I came across Ian Purdie's Amateur Radio Tutorial pages (from which I download. "Thanks Ian, I gave you a donation and will get in touch one day. I hope that F&P come across with the same") I then put in the word "Morse" and there was an invitation to learn the code using the computer.

With a phone call to NZART Headquarters in the Hutt Valley I was able to get Gary ZL1AN's CD. 'Become a Radio Amateur' and later through the net joined FISTS and was able to meet Ralph ZL2AOH who very kindly has lent me a Morse key and a pile of amateur books and with whom I am now keeping in touch. I live in Brooklyn Wellington, which has streets named after U.S. presidents; the main street being Jefferson Street. It's hilly and people from outside Wellington insist on telling you that it's always windy; we have a movie theatre that has never closed and is doing well.

From building crystal sets, to the hikers one, to valve amplifiers and talking about output tubes to my friends in the 1950's I can still smell the lacquer that greets you when you open a kit set. One thing I do regret is not joining "Rahob's" a Lamphouse radio club in Auckland but I did buy their books and I felt that I belonged to the club anyway.

I started work with the New Zealand Post Office that was on Waterloo Quay where the MVQS Dominion Monarch used to berth. It towered up over the workshop and everyone walked over in the lunch hour to see her - "let's go to sea!"

My cousin had been to sea and talked about sea life so I decided, "that's for me." Unable to join the Merchant Navy from New Zealand I took a trip on the Northern Star to London and wrote to the shipping companies there, I finally got the reply to start as a Junior Electrical Engineer and worked the coast of the U.K. prior to going deep sea. - I look forward to talking to other members who were in the Merchant Service.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FISTS GONE?

John Kirk, VK4TJ # 9080

On the few occasions in the last month where I've been able to scare up a FISTS contact, the theme song has been the same: "Where have all the FISTS operators gone?" There once was a time, not that long ago, when you could dial up 14058 or 7028 kHz and hear several FISTS members in conversation at any given time. Imagine resolving to tackle Century Club or Platinum right now - what an exercise in frustration that would be!

We all "know" that, at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, calling CQ is futile, right? We "know" that the upper HF bands close up shop right smartly when the sun goes down - it's common knowledge! It's also dead wrong!

Something about the whole deal smelled rotten to me - how could 20 metres be dead of an evening for amateurs, but emphatically open for oriental pirate fishing boats? The obvious answer, of course, is that it can't - several important laws of physics would have to be repealed for this to be so.

In a sort of inverse limbo dance, I sought to find out just how dead the upper HF bands were, playing "how high can you go" with the NCDXF beacons:

The setting:

- Two hours after local sunset
- WWV indicators: SFI: 74, A=8, K=3. In short, pretty mediocre.

20: KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, VR2B beacons audible

17: ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, VR2B beacons audible

15: KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, RR9O, VR2B, 4S7B beacons audible

12: KH6WO, ZL6B, JA2IGY, RR9O, VR2B beacons audible

10: OK, - There were no 10-metre beacons audible...

Pretty dang good for so-called dead bands, wouldn't you say? I need 4S7 on a couple of bands, and would be delighted to work one, or any of the surrounding countries!

"But", you say, "This has to be a fluke. Everybody knows the bands are dead".

- I repeated the experiment several days running. The only change in outcome was that as the A and K indices dropped, the signals got better.

"You must have a monster Yagi", you say. "That makes up for inadequate conditions".

- The experiments were conducted on a length of hook-up wire 4 metres off the turf.

"You must have an ultra-quiet location"

- Band noise was running S7 on most frequencies throughout the experiment. About - as bad, as it gets.

"You must have superlative equipment"

- The experiments were conducted on an elderly IC-706 (original), definitely showing signs of age.

"You must have incredible filters"

- The experiment was conducted using a stock 250 Hz filter in the ICOM. I cannot even spell DSP, let alone afford one!

I must admit, I was a bit shocked at the results of the experiment myself, especially the 12 metre results. The only rational conclusion that I can draw from all of this is that: "Inactivity begets inactivity"

Because we all "know" that the bands are dead, we cease to try. While it is true that there are large chunks of the globe we're not going to hear from for a while, there is a heap of DX out there to be worked. **Get Cracking!**

MEMORIES OF ANTARCTICA

SCOTT BASE – ZL5AI

William (Bill) H. Deverall, ZL1VS # FISTS 9603

I will never forget that morning in November -1960. The day I boarded an aircraft belonging to the US Navy. It was one of the famous Super Constellation passenger planes with four propeller engines. Being the military version, the seats had us passengers seated with our backs to the engines. We were bound for McMurdo Sound, Antarctica where I was destined to take up the job as wintering over Radio Officer in New Zealand's Scott Base. My companions and I had been warned, that it may-not be possible to return to civilization in a year's time. We should be prepared to stay for two years should Mother Nature so decide. This is what happened to previous people, visiting the continent.

The powers-that-be, American and New Zealand, had taken elaborate precautions for our safety. A New Zealand warship was stationed at the point-of-safe-return. Her task was to provide weather reports, and to be prepared to go to our plane's assistance should it be necessary to ditch. A substantial part of the passenger cabin was taken up with a stack of survival suits. One, for each person, on board the aircraft. After nine hours the mountains of Antarctica could be seen ahead. To us, it was a wondrous sight. We were advised to don outdoor clothing ready to disembark. The NZ DSIR had provided us with excellent outdoor clothing. Mukluk Footwear - as worn, by the Eskimos. Bulky, brightly coloured padded jackets lined with wolverine fur. The only animal fur - that does not ice up from the wearer's Breath. As the plane descended we caught a stunning glimpse of Mount Erebus, white with snow from bottom to summit, with a white plume issuing from the crater. There were no stewardesses with lollies. I felt my ears popping, until the landing on the ice runway of William's Field.

I was one of a group five kiwis on the way to take the place of outgoing wintering over Scott Base personnel. Others aboard the plane were on their way to the large McMurdo base, or the smaller base right at the South Pole itself. They were a mixed lot. Some – Scientists, others, journalists & workers. There was a large group from the naval dockyard, Hawaii. Some were 'guests of the Admiral'. Persons - invited by the Admiral to have a look. Some of these were Kiwis. I chatted with one such who told me he had put his age up to join the army during World War 1 and had put it down in order to qualify to accept the admiral's invitation to visit. Some of the admiral's guests were elderly. One such was Sir Charles Wright, who was with Captain Scott's party, fifty years previous.

The plane door opened to reveal an unkempt rough looking man with a flowing beard and a wide grin. I was reminded of the phrase "rough, but oh so gentle" as he carefully handed some of the frail looking people down the gangway. When it was my turn to take his helping hand, I received the shock of my life. I had expected the outside air to be cold - but not that cold. If someone had not hold of me I felt I would have been forced back into the plane. The Scott Base snow-cat was there to pick up us kiwis. It was identified by a home made kiwi flag made out of an empty kiwi brand flour bag attached to the radio aerial. They looked a motley lot of ruffians, but the welcome they gave us was obviously sincerely joyful. Wintering over makes one glad to see new faces.

Before leaving N Z, I had read about radio in Antarctica in QST magazine. It had explained that, as snow there is frozen distilled water, a radio aerial spread out on the surface does not need supports or insulators to operate efficiently. The portable transceivers used by Scott Base field parties used this technique. Another peculiarity at Scott Base was that an electrical earth could not be found. The Base electric supply was therefore "floating". Short wave communication was more unreliable than usual. But as that was the only possible means of communicating either locally or with the outside world, that was what was used. - (Since 1961, satellites have come about. The frequency bands used by satellites are not affected by the ionosphere. Generally nowadays, Antarctic bases have card phone boxes from which it is possible to dial world wide.) The MF radio band did not appear to be suitable for communication at all. Ships in McMurdo Sound, by law, were required to keep watch on 500 kHz. They never heard any signals. I had only taken up duty for a few days when there was a mother of radio blackouts. There was no contact with other bases, or the outside world for about ten days, when things gradually returned to normal. This rather brought all aircraft movements pretty much to a standstill. During all this, the base laboratory was able to receive VLF signals from a British naval station at Rugby, England. This pleased the scientists, as, with the accurate time signals from there, the lab work was able to continue. The neighbouring American base also was able to receive inward signals from the US Navy VLF station at Jim Creek, USA. It appears that the VLF band - is not affected by the ionosphere either. Not so long lasting, but similar blackouts were quite common, especially during the five-month-long winter night. Then, simultaneously with the disturbed radio conditions, the night sky - would be lit by the lights of Aurora - Australis.

My predecessor in the radio room was the well known & highly respected the late Peter Yeates who had wintered over twice! I heard that later he went on to "drive" the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, England. Before he left, those who wintered with him presented him with a homemade medal for screening over one hundred movies in one night! (At the base it's dark for five months). It was a rule that everyone, cook, carpenter or whatever, had to play with the husky pups in order to familiarize them with people. This paid off. Scott Base huskies were lovable friends. Quite different from some Greenland born Eskimo dogs, which were brought to bring new blood into the husky community. The Greenland dogs would not accept as much as a pat from a human being. When approached they cowered away as far as their chain would allow. It was customary to name the dogs after movie stars. One old outstanding female lead dog was named Zsa Zsa. I personally paid attention to one particularly lovely pup & named her after my then baby daughter, Lesley.

During my stay a Post Office party of riggers came and erected a rhombic antenna that was targeted on New Zealand and was for receiving only. Apart from that big blackout, I was able to clear all telegraph messages by Morse to Awarua Radio every day, including a daily message of 100+ five figure groups of figures with a curly part of mixed figures and letters at the

end. This was the report on the previous days observations on the ionosphere. The telephone skeds used for connection to the public telephone service was however very patchy.

Summer was five months of non - stop sunshine. Midnight was as bright as midday. I had regular skeds with the two exploring and mapping parties. They both had Sledges & Husky teams. They spread their wire aerials out on the snow. In order to conserve batteries they transmitted to me at base with Morse code. I replied with the base AM radiotelephone. As the surveyors had just learnt the code for the job their Morse was rather "hairy", but they got better at it as the days passed. They kept transmissions to a minimum, but I was expected to ramble on rather. It was part of my job to keep them abreast of what was happening in the outside world as well as any scuttlebutt around the base. They were allowed to name third category features, i.e. insignificant places, after workmates. I was - honoured by them, naming some rocks protruding through the Ross Ice Shelf after me. It's just a few rocks in a desolate place. It has since transpired that it has a use as a landmark on the air route between McMurdo Base and Pole Station in the otherwise featureless ice shelf, which is quite large - larger than France. I see on the Internet that Ohio State University have been actively studying the ice shelf - the largest in the world. They needed somewhere solid that does not move to install a radio transmitter to transmit data to their satellite. Where else? "My" Island - Deverall Island. I am glad a use has been found for it. It was no good for farming.

The long winter night brought a stop to outdoor activities. Temperatures plummeted way below zero. Reception from the newly installed rhombic receiving aerial deteriorated. I decided to venture into the dark to investigate. With my Eskimo mukluks on my feet, padded jacket, two pair of gloves and a torch, I set off in the blackness up the slope towards Crater Hill. A small hill topped by an old crater. By the light of the torch I followed the aerial feeder wires, four of them, with plastic spacers to keep them apart. The plastic was said to be of a new type that would withstand intense cold. I could see that the four wires had become loose in parts & were touching. More spacers were needed.



Above

Bill, ZL5AI in Radio Room, Scott Base, Antarctica (1961)

Left

Bill, ZL5AI with Husky (1961)

Replacements were not on hand. What to do? I had a chat with the Chief Scientist, Bob Clements, the Post Office radio engineer. We decided that in the extremely dry climate where it never rains, wood would be a good insulator. I shaped some wood from apple boxes to the same as the existing plastic ones. The poles carrying the lead in were eight feet high, so I had to stand on an apple box. Gloves made it impossible to fit the wooden insulators. In desperation I took the gloves off. Fingers became numb. I hurried with the job until eventually I felt the cold spreading into leg joints. I could see the lights of the base down the hill. I was so cold I decided to run to the base. Once there I spent some time over the mess room stove. Painfully & tearfully thawing out.

The wooden spacers seemed to work okay. After mid winter, that rhombic receiving aerial still functioned okay, but the familiar stations heard changed. Things seemed somehow not to be the same. It was starting to be lighter at midday. In the twilight I trudged up the slope for a close look. After lots of peering in the half - light the cause of the change in reception lay in the snow before me. One of the substantial metal beams that had held the aerial aloft lay at my feet, flat in the snow. Unlike some other parts of the continent, the location of Scott Base is not particularly windy. However, some weeks

previously the wind gauge had recorded a particularly high gust. We presumed the mast must have fallen then. Lying on the snow, which, being like distilled water, insulated it so it continued to function, albeit it's directivity altered. The subtle change in reception had indicated to me that things were different. In the winter darkness, that it was no longer upright went unnoticed until I found it in the twilight of the coming spring. A broken steel - "tent peg" that had secured the mast to the ground and held it upright, had snapped. Re-erecting it was beyond our resources. All I could do was report the details to the NZ Post Office Engineer-in-Chief, and forward the broken peg for examination by the first flight out in the spring. In the meantime, lying flat in the snow, it continued to do the job, more or less. Subsequently, when I called in to head office, the broken peg was in use as a paperweight on the radio engineer's desk.

When the sun started to circle low down on the horizon, we were in perpetual twilight. The one hundred plus summer support people departed by air, leaving thirteen of us to keep the base running ready for the next busy summertime. The base was run by the Antarctic Division of the NZ DSIR. Radio Officers were encouraged to work in the ham bands. It was said to help base morale. The call sign ZL5AI was issued to me before I left New Zealand.

Now the hustle & bustle had ceased, it was time for me to see about opening up on the ham bands. It was easy. From the early days of the base, in the time of Ed Hillary a crystal in the lower end of the 20m Band had been provided for one of the station's war surplus transmitters. A call there almost immediately had a queue of NZ stations waiting for a QSO. One Sunday morning there was a surprise RST 599 QSO with a British station located on a small island on the South American side of the continent. The first radio signal I had ever heard from that part of the world. The surveyor with us, Englishman, Wally Herbert, a professional Arctic & Antarctic explorer had been stationed on that island, knew some of the party there, and had a fine chat. For months after that I called the same station, but there was no response. It must have been a fluke. Short wave conditions were quite unpredictable.

Bill Deverall, ZL1VS # 9603

(Bill, Thank you for a very fine article – most interesting. You must have been in great demand as not many ZL5 Calls have been issued over the years. I only know of two others – ZL5AL and ZL5AX. Ed)

COAST-TO-COAST (C2C) CONTEST 2006

The annual FISTS Club Coast-to-Coast Contest will be run on the last weekend in September this year from 06:00 UTC on Saturday 30 September 2006 until 18:00 UTC on Sunday 1 October 2006. Last year we clashed with the CQ WW SSB Contest when the contestants in that event encroached throughout the CW section of the 40-metre band. This year there are no major contests occurring at the same time as C2C. – We will promulgate the rules closer to the event. This is the best opportunity all year to pick up points towards the various FISTS awards. – **Mark the dates in your calendar now.** ZL6FF will operate from Quartz Hill and we hope that all the Down Under clubs will also be on the air. – Members in the lower North Island are invited to join a team to operate from Quartz Hill.

TRUE

"THE MORSE CODE" when rearranged reads "HERE COME DOTS"

WANTED

ARTICLES FOR THE FIST DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER

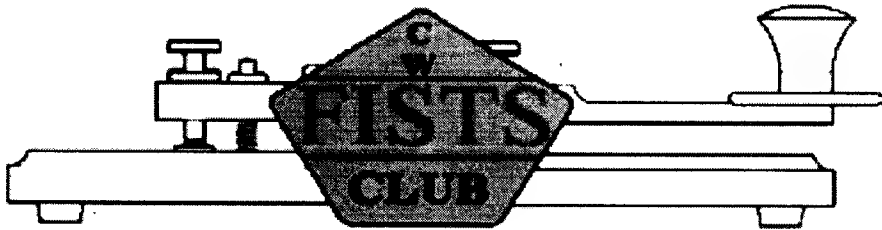
PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMBERS

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMBERS STATIONS AND MORSE KEYS

If you have something please forward it to Nigel, ZL2TX by post or e-mail. Any posted photographs will of course be returned once scanned. E-Mailed photograph attachments should be reduced to about 80Kb.

See Postal and E-Mail Information in - Newsletter Header.

International Morse Preservation Society
FISTS
East Asia Chapter



morsEAsia

April 2006



FISTS EA Newsletter # 9
Editor: JJ8KGZ / Leo H Tsukada
E-mail: jj8kgz@fists-ea.org

<http://www.feacw.net/>
<http://www.fists-ea.org/>

From the Editor's Desk

Leo H Tsukada / JJ8KGZ

jj8kgz@fists-ea.org

Hello FISTS,

Being hectic these days, I could not meet the deadline of this issue. I'm really sorry for the delay and thanks for your waiting. The bands have not been good recently. Especially 40 meters is invaded by some **woodpecker-ish noise**, centered around 7.015 to 7.040MHz. It sometimes goes away but the band never seems to recover from the insult. It's called a 'helicopter noise' among some HAMs in JA.

Working with a JA FISTS buddy, Taro, JR0QWW/M one late night, I was so frustrated with the noise because it covered most of his signal and it eventually forced us to say '73' each other. The noise can be said that it comes from a country located in the Far East but I do not know for sure. Hopefully, we'll be able to get back the quiet and beautiful 40m band some day.

In this issue...First, a new member JR7OEF/Nori #15022 will greet you from his QTH, Sendai, Miyagi Pref.. Then you will see the financial report of FISTS EA in 2004 and 2005. It will be followed by a contribution of BX2AH/Chen. You can see some photos from Taiwan, which show you FISTS in BV got together to build a new antenna for one of their friends. In closing, one of our friends in Europe, DK7LX / Georg tells us his exciting contact with a station in Okinawa Is., Japan.

CU on the air. 73 de JJ8KGZ/Leo # 4843

Hello CW Fans!

By JR7OEF/Nori # 15022



I am Nori, JR7OEF and I have been on the air since 1979 when I was a high school student.

I am interested in over sea contacts especially on CW. I live in a small condominium with my wife, a son and a daughter. He is 8 years old and she is 3 years old. They disturb me so much when I start QSOs. So I cannot enjoy radio at this moment. I hope that they grow up as soon as possible and they can enjoy themselves in holiday time.

Please give me time for radio!

The treasurer's report for FY 2004 and 2005

By JL8MIL/Jun Matsuya # 9117

Bank account (JPY)

FY 2004

Total income (subscriptions) 41,507 JPY
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 1,575 JPY
Balance 39,932 JPY

FY 2005

Total income (subscriptions) 20,012 JPY
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 3,780 JPY
Balance 16,232 JPY

Total balance 56,164 JPY

PayPal account (USD)

FY 2004

Total income (subscriptions) 105.00 USD
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 4.97 USD
Balance 100.03 USD

FY 2005

Total income (subscriptions) 55.00 USD
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 3.66 USD
Balance 51.34 USD

Total Balance 151.37 USD

PayPal account (JPY)

FY 2004

Total income (subscriptions) 2,500 JPY
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 125 JPY
Balance 2,375 JPY

FY 2005

Total income (subscriptions) 0 JPY
Total expenses (Bank account fee) 0 JPY
Balance 0 JPY

Total Balance 2,375 JPY

FISTS in Hokkaido got together

By JJ8KGZ/Leo #4843



Early December, 2005, FISTS in Hokkaido got together and enjoyed eye-ball-QSOs. Having dinner at a restaurant, which is well known as 'Sapporo Beer garden', we enjoyed talking about Ham Radio.

On the Photo, From Left to Right:

JA8AJE/Masa #8322, JL8MIL/Jun(K6KF) #9117, •• JA8UUM/Masa #15019, JJ8KGZ/Leo #4843 and JL3SIK/Jean (K2JA) #9836.

After this restaurant, we went to a coffee shop and talked and talked and talked. Especially, we zero in on the topics of radio with only a cup of coffee. It was so enjoyable!

Photos from Taiwan
Courtesy of BX2AH / Frank Chen # 15016

These are the pictures BX2AH / Frank Chen took at BX1AD's QTH. Some of them are FISTS EA members: BX1AA/Lin, #15004, BX1AC/Rabbit, # 15003, BV1EG/Lin, #15005 and BX2AH/Chen, #15016. They were assembling BX1AD's force C3 yagi antenna, which was blown down by a typhoon last year.

1. BX1AA (in blue shirt), BX1AC (lower) and BX1AAB (standing)



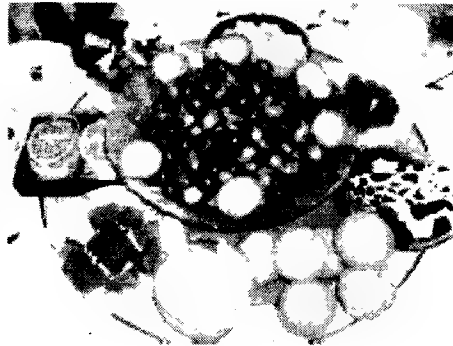
2. BX1AA (left, in blue shirt), BX1AC (next to bx1aa) and BV1EG (half standing with a camera in hand) and CTARL friends (BV2SR, BV2OL, BX1AD, BM2GJQ, BX1AAB)



3. BV1EF (front), BX1AA and BV1EG (in the back). BV1EF and BV1EG are twins. Both are students.



4. Fruits and jelly at BX1AD's QTH



5. BX1AC (on the stair), BX1AA (in blue), and friends.

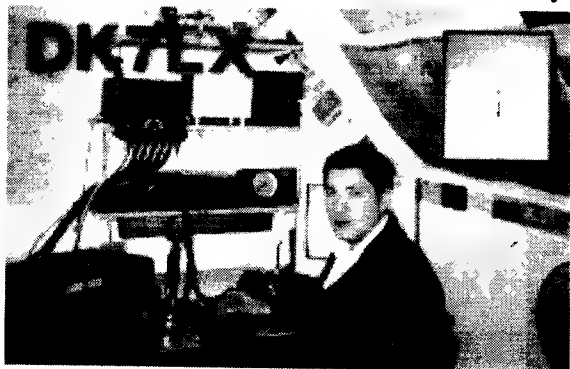


Your contribution with photos and messages are always welcome.

Please send yours to
jj8kgz@fists-ea.org

A message from a friend in Europe

By DK7LX/Georg



Dear fellow-CW'ers in East Asia,

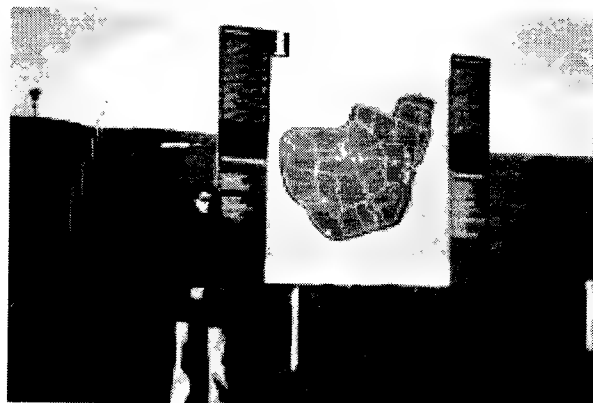
Here comes a little report from DK7LX, OM Georg from Germany telling a little story what gives proof that HAM-radio, and CW in particular, is a life-time drug. Recently I had a nice CW-QSO with JO3HPM, OM Nao-san on 17 M and we had made an appointment to exchange an e-mail later after the QSO. While writing e-mails, I became the idea to ask Nao for help or support.

I'm a keen IOTA-chaser and in addition I'm always keen on working JA's. I think that I've logged far more than 500 JA's in the last few years. But there was one thing missing: JR6/JS6, the Okinawa Prefecture. Hard for me to understand: how could I work so many different Prefectures all the way down from Hokkaido to Kyushu but not the southernmost of all: Okinawa. So I asked Nao whether he could provide me with some info regarding any QRG or OM/YL down in Okinawa and how to get in touch with them on the radio. Nao was willing to help and to collect some details in order to forward them to me. •• While he was doing so, the next morning came and being on holidays at that time I decided to switch on my rig very early that day. Conditions were not too bad and I decided to stay on 17 M because 15 M was still dead, so was 30 M. 20 M in EU is not always the best band for DX due to QRM and short-skip conditions at the same time while you could work ZL on the long path. So is 40 M here in EU. I was turning my 2 ele Quad towards Far East Asia and could directly hear good signals from UA0 and different areas of JA.

Then it happened unexpectedly: while turning the VFO to 18.092 MHz I could hear JS6RFE, YL Sai from Okinawa. I just could not believe it! Can it be true? That must be something super-natural. Yesterday and the days before I was dreaming of a QSO with AS-017, have asked a kind OM in JA for info and help and now it could perhaps happen. Would it be that easy, would JS6RFE hear me? I could hear the signal quite well. So I kicked on my FL-2100Z, 600 W might help. I called, then I listened..... when I next heard YL Sai repeating my call-sign I nearly went unconscious. It is exactly this unbelievable feeling that is overwhelming you when you make that sort of QSO. For me it is the same adrenaline-like push like 20 years ago. I'm very glad to see that there are always new challenges in our radio hobby. It is just never ending, isn't it!

Funny is that I worked YL Sai again two days later, this time on 18.093 MHz. This is what HAM RADIO is all about! Best regards to all of you over there in Far East Asia and I hope to hear you soon!

•• Vy 73 de DK7LX Georg



FISTS EA Activities

Suggested Calling Frequencies

You can find FISTS members on/near following recommended calling frequencies.
QSO's should be QSY'd another frequency.

FISTS	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	2m
<u>East Asia</u>	-	-	-	10.118 10.138 (*1)	14.058	18.085	21.058	24.918	28.058 28.158 (*2)	-	-
HQ/Europe	-	3.558	7.028	-	14.058	-	21.058	-	28.058	-	-
North America	1.808	3.558 3.708	7.028 7.058 7.118	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	50.058	144.058
Down Under	1.808	3.528	7.028	10.118	14.058	18.085	21.058 21.158	24.918	28.058 28.158	-	-
QRP calling freqs (*3)	-	-	-	10.106 10.116	14.060	18.086 18.096	21.060 21.110	24.906 24.910	28.060 28.110	-	-

(*1) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use 10.130 to 10.150.

(*2) BV [Taiwan] stations are allowed to use above 28.100.

(*3) International QRP calling frequencies are neighborhood.

FISTS EA Most Active Ragchewer in 2006

Last Update: 2006 April 17

Rank	Call	Name	Point	Comment	Reporting date (Y/M/D)
1	JJ8KGZ	Leo	103	Enjoyed some DX QSOs. But rarely meet FISTS NA members.	2006/4/13
2	JO3HPM	Nao	84	24 FEA NET. 30 FISTS QSO. My longest chat time is 150 min with JL8MIL(Jun) Feb 10 night.	2006/4/9
3	JE1TRV	Atsu	43	Have fun !	2006/4/14
4	UK/JI2MED	Manabu	41	The last highlight was the QSO with JP6VCH/6/QRP on 16 April 2006. His 3w from K1 into fishing rod whip antenna was booming to Tashkent over 6.000km distance, peaking 599! My radio was K2/5w and 2ele Quad. He discribed me his situation in portable operation and I could imagine clearly the landscape in sunset time on the beach where he moved up by bicycle.	2006/4/17
5	JG0MWU	Ken	28	Mar.09 JA0BJ 17m ABT OUR QTH SAME CITY ES TNX 4BANDS QSO	2006/4/2
6	JK7UST	Sugi	13	3 FISTS Member	2006/2/4

FISTS East Asia CW Net

We have informal CW sessions for ANYONE who wants to practice English QSO.

When	on Sundays @ East Asia
Part I	between 7.025MHz and 7.030MHz, sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz, or around 10.138MHz starting 2300UTC on Saturdays (0700 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 0800 JST on Sundays)
Part II	between 14.050MHz and 14.055MHz sometimes between 18.080MHz and 18.085MHz, or around 10.138MHz starting 0800UTC on Sundays (1600 Taiwan/Singapore Time, 1700 JST on Sundays)
Speed	12WPM to 15WPM
Controlled by	Nao, JO3HPM, Sugi, JK7UST/JE7YTQ, and Chen, BX2AH
Managed by	Nao, JO3HPM
Any other announcements	might be posted to the FEA English BBS.

FISTS EA NET Result

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participant
68-2	2006/4/9	0800-0900	14.0515	JO3HPM(Nao)	ZL2ALJ(Tony), VR2DL(Tat), JE1TRV(Atsu)
68-1	2006/4/8	2300-0025	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JK7UST(Sugi), JG0SXC(Man), JO3HPM(Nao), JR0QWW/0(Taro)
67-2	2006/4/2	0800-0840	14.054	JK7UST(Sugi)	VK4TJ(John)
67-1	2006/4/1	2300-0015	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JE1TRV(atsu), JF3KNW(Nobu)
66-2	2006/3/26	0800-0900	14.0545	JO3HPM(Nao)	VR2DL(Tat), UK/JI2MED(Manabu)
66-1	2006/3/25	2300-2345	7.024	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE7YTQ(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JR0QWW/0(Taro), JA1NUT(Shin)
65-2	2006/3/19	0800-0915	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VR2DL(Tat), VR2AJ(Mak), BX2AH(Chen), JK7UST(Sugi)
65-1	2006/3/18	2300-2345	7.0285	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao), VR2AJ(Mak)
64-2	2006/3/12	0800-0855	14.0545	JO3HPM(Nao)	VR2GM(Liu), BX2AH(Chen)
64-1	2006/3/11	2300-2340	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JO3HPM(Nao)

High Speed CW Nets

Name:	NTS?	Purpose:	Coverage Area:	Freq:	Days:	Local:	UTC:	Manager:	Reporting:	Updated:
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	FL	7.051	Dy	19:00		W8IM	W8IM	04/16/05
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Late	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	FL	3.651	Dy	22:00		W8IM	W8IM	04/16/05
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	GA	3.953	Dy	19:00	0:00	AF4NS	K4BAI	04/16/05
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Late	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	GA	3.953	Dy	22:00	3:00	AF4NS	K4BAI	04/16/05
Hit 'N Bounce Net (HBN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	Eastern/MidWest US	7.042	Dy	8:30		WD8DIN	W8IM	05/12/05
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	IN	3.656	Dy	14:30	9:30	K9PUI	K9ZBM	04/16/05
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	IN	3.656	Dy	19:00	0:00	KJ9J	K9ZBM	04/16/05
K9YA Fast Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice/fun	Continental US	7.137	1 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	N9BOR	03/06/05
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.643	Dy	19:00	0:00	WJ3K	WJ3K	11/13/03
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Late	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.643	Dy	22:00	3:00	WJ3K	WJ3K	11/13/03
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 20 m Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	On air activity	Southern CA	14.055	S	7:30	15:30	KA6G	KA6G	12/20/04
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 40 m Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	On air activity	Southern CA	7.084	S	8:30	16:30	KA6G & WA	KA6G	12/20/04
New York State CW - Early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	NY	3.677	Dy	19:00	0:00	WB2QIX	KA2QIK	04/16/05
New York State CW - Late	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	NY	3.677	Dy	22:00	3:00	W2YGW	KA2QIK	04/16/05
New York State CW - Morning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	NY	3.670	Dy	10:00	15:00	KA2GJV	N2QZ	09/17/05
Northern California Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	Northern CA & NV	3.630	Dy	19:00		K9JM	K9JM	04/16/05
Orange County Wireless Net (OCWN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice/Social	Orange County CA	7.086	Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KF6UEB	03/07/05
QNM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663	Dy	22:00	3:00	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/05
QNM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663	Dy	19:30	0:30	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/05
Texas CW Net (Early)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	TX	3.643	Dy	19:00	1:00	AC5XK	NJ0E	04/16/05
Texas CW Net (Late)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	TX	3.643	Dy	22:00	3:00	AC5XK	NJ0E	04/16/05
Tin Can Sailors CW Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code practice	General coverage	7.117	W	10:00		N3RSD	N3RSD	07/15/05
Virginia Net Early (VNE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	VA	3.680	Dy X T	19:00	0:00	KV4AN	KV4AN	11/03/03
W6MTC CW net -- FISTS 10350	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Practice	Southern CA, AZ & NV	7.084	S	8:30	15:30	KA6G	KS6CW	04/09/04
Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN/E)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.662	Dy	19:00	1:00		N9JIY	04/16/05
Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN/L)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.662	Dy	22:00	4:00		N9JIY	04/16/05

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This list was generated on: Friday, March 17, 2006

Slow Speed CW Nets

<i>Name:</i>	<i>NTS?</i>	<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>Coverage Area:</i>	<i>Freq:</i>	<i>Days:</i>	<i>Local:</i>	<i>UTC:</i>	<i>Manager:</i>	<i>Reporting:</i>	<i>Updated:</i>
Alabama Training Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	SE United States	3.712	Dy	18:00	0:00	KG4IMI	KG4IMI	06/25/05
Amateur Radio Telegraph Society net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic and Training	Wide Coverage	7.052	Dy	6:30	12:30	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	03/17/06
British Columbia Emergency Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Traffic	BC, AB, SK, MB, WA, OR, ID, MT	3.652	Dy	19:00	3:00	VE7XLH	VE7DWG	12/16/03
Carolinas Slow Net (CSN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic/Code Practice	NC and SC	3.696	Dy	20:00	1:00	W4EAT	W4EAT	10/27/03
Empire Slow Speed (ESS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	NE US	3.590	Dy	18:00	23:00	WI2G	KA2QIK	12/20/04
Florida Medium Speed Net (FMSN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	FL	3.651	Dy	18:30		AG4RJ	W8IM	04/19/05
Georgia Training Net (GTN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	SE US	3.702	Dy	21:00	2:00	KG4FXG	KG4FXG	06/06/04
Hoodview CW Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	CW Practice	Portland, OR Metro Area	28.130	Dy	19:00	3:00	AB7BI	N7QR	11/05/03
Idaho Montana Net (IMN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	ID & MT	3.647	Dy		3:00	N7MPS	VE7DWG	04/16/05
K9YA Slow Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice/fun	Continental US	7.137	2,3,4 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	N9BOR	03/06/05
Kansas Slow Speed Net	<input type="checkbox"/>		KS	3.710	MW	19:30			KC0CCR	04/16/05
Maine Slow Speed Net	<input type="checkbox"/>		ME	3.683	Dy	18:00		W1QU	WA2AFD	02/09/04
Maryland Slow Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	NE USA & SE Canada	3.717	Dy	19:30	0:30	W8CPG	N3ZOC	01/19/04
NARL Slow Speed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training		28.180		7:30	15:30	AA1GW	WA2AFD	12/20/04
NJ Slow Speed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	NJ	3.715	Dy	18:30	23:30	K2PB	WA2AFD	02/12/04
Northern CA Slow Speed Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	EB, NV, SCV, SF, SV	3.705	Dy	21:00	5:00	WB6UZX	VE7DWG	11/11/03
Ohio Slow Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	OH	3.708	Dy	18:10	23:10	WD8Q	WD8Q	04/16/05
Oklahoma Training Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	Wide	7.120.6	Dy	17:20	23:20	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	03/17/06
Orange County Wireless Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice & Chat	Orange County CA & Nearby Cnties	7.086	Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KE6OIO	03/17/06
Oregon Section Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	OR	3.587	Dy	6:30	2:30	W7IZ	VE7DWG	04/16/05
Oregon Section Net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	OR	3.587	Dy	10:00	6:00	KC7SRL	VE7DWG	04/16/05
PA Traffic & Training Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	PA	3.617	Dy	18:30		N3SW	WA2AFD	02/09/04
Sandia Valley ARC Slow Speed Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Practice / Ragche	Southwest US	7.063	W	21:00	4:00	WB7RHT	WB7RHT	12/16/03
Texas Slow Net (TSN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic & Training	TX & other	3.719	Dy	20:00	2:00	KD5GM	NJ0E	04/16/05
West Coast Slow Speed (WCN)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic, Training	West Coast	3.702	Dy	19:00		W7WCN	VE7DWG	10/28/03
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.723	Dy	18:00	0:00	KB9ROB	N9JIY	04/16/05
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.645	Dy	18:30	0:30	WA9ZTY	N9JIY	04/16/05

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This list was generated on: **Friday, March 17, 2006**

Page 1 of 1

MAY ACTIVITIES:

SPRING SPRINT - 2ND SATURDAY IN MAY 1700-2100Z

DAYTON HAMVENTION: We need help at the Friday night party and at the FISTS booth

Announcing the 4th annual Pre-Hamvention® dinner at Ryan's Family Steakhouse. Sponsored by the Flying Pigs QRP Club. Join us again this year on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:00PM for good eats and friendship prior to the weekend's Hamvention® festivities. We have reserved an air conditioned, smoke-free room again this year.

The cost for dinner (includes 15% tip) is about \$13. Ryan's is a buffet style restaurant with something for just about everyone. No reservation required, just bring your best story to share, and a healthy appetite!

Ryan's Family Steakhouse 1760 E. Stroop Rd. Kettering, Oh 45420

FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

PLEASE NOTE YOUR RENEWAL DATE on the TOP LINE of your MAILING information. (FISTS# year/month/day)

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